

NORTH DAKOTANS ARE READY FOR A NEW DIRECTION

Under the leadership of President Bush and his Republican allies in Congress, life has become more difficult for North Dakotans. Here are some of the ways that life has become less affordable and secure in North Dakota. Democrats are working for real security, better jobs, college access for all, energy independence, affordable health care, and retirement security. It's time for a new direction in North Dakota.

INCOME: NORTH DAKOTANS ARE BARELY EARNING MORE TODAY THAN THEY WERE FIVE YEARS AGO

- In 2000, the median income in North Dakota was \$39,533.¹
- In 2005, the median income in North Dakota was \$41,362, an increase of 4.6 percent.²

HEALTH CARE: THE NUMBER OF UNINSURED IN NORTH DAKOTA HAS GROWN UNDER BUSH REPUBLICANS

- In 2000, North Dakota had 69,000 adults without insurance (11.2 percent).³
- In 2005, North Dakota had 76,000 adults without insurance (12.2 percent).⁴
- North Dakota had 5,725 children benefit from the SCHIP Program.⁵

EDUCATION: THE COST OF COLLEGE CONTINUES TO RISE IN NORTH DAKOTA

- In 2001, tuition at a public four-year institution in North Dakota was \$6,405.⁶ In 2005, it was \$9,011, a 41 percent increase.⁷
- In 2001, tuition at a private four-year institution in North Dakota was \$11,392.⁸ In 2005, it was \$12,525, a 10 percent increase.⁹
- Number of North Dakotans affected by the lapse of the College Tuition Tax Deduction – 8,706¹⁰
- Number of North Dakotans affected by the lapse of the Educator Expenses Tax Deduction – 6,582¹¹

GAS PRICES: THE HIGH COST OF GAS CONTINUES TO BE A BURDEN FOR NORTH DAKOTA RESIDENTS

- In 2001, the average cost of gas in North Dakota was \$1.549 a gallon.¹²
- Today the average cost of gas in North Dakota is \$2.314 a gallon.¹³
- In 2001, the average annual cost of gas for a household in North Dakota was \$2,354.¹⁴
- Today the average annual cost of gas for a household in North Dakota is \$3,517, \$1,163 (49.4 percent) more than it was in 2001.¹⁵

SOCIAL SECURITY: NORTH DAKOTANS DON'T WANT AN END TO SOCIAL SECURITY

- Number of Social Security Beneficiaries in North Dakota – 114,720¹⁶
- Average Monthly Benefit per Beneficiary in North Dakota – \$820¹⁷

IRAQ, TROOPS AND VETERANS: NORTH DAKOTANS ON THE FRONT LINES

- Number of North Dakotans killed in Iraq – 13¹⁸
- Number of North Dakotans wounded in Iraq – 65¹⁹
- Number of North Dakotans killed in Afghanistan – 2²⁰
- Number of North Dakotans wounded in Afghanistan – 4²¹
- Number of Veterans in North Dakota – 55,374²²

REPUBLICANS CONTINUE TO PUSH FOR GIVEAWAYS FOR A WEALTHY MINORITY WHILE IGNORING NORTH DAKOTA'S MINIMUM WAGE WORKERS

- Only 31 estates in North Dakota paid an Estate Tax in 2004.²³
- Only 14 estates in North Dakota will benefit from the Estate Tax cut in 2009.²⁴
- In contrast, 21,000 workers in North Dakota would benefit from an increase in the minimum wage.²⁵

CRIME: VIOLENT CRIME IN NORTH DAKOTA IS ON THE RISE

- Number of Violent Crimes per 100,000 residents in North Dakota in 2000 – 81.426
- Number of Violent Crimes per 100,000 residents in North Dakota in 2005 – 98.227
- Amount of COPS Funding Dispersed in 2002 – 2,888,967²⁸
- Amount of COPS Funding Dispersed in 2006 – 2,386,229²⁹

TAX CUTS: BUSH TAX POLICIES BENEFIT THE WEALTHIEST NORTH DAKOTANS

The Bush tax cuts have overwhelmingly benefited the wealthiest North Dakotans.

- In 2001, the richest one percent of North Dakota residents each received an average of \$1,898 in tax cuts, while middle class North Dakota residents received only \$407.³⁰
- In 2006, the richest one percent of North Dakota residents will receive an average of \$20,540 in tax cuts, while middle class North Dakota residents will only receive \$749.³¹

- In 2010, under the Bush tax plan, the richest one percent of North Dakota residents will each receive an average of \$37,117 in tax cuts, while middle class North Dakota residents will only receive \$893.³²

The richest North Dakotans receive an ever-growing share of the Bush tax cut.

- In 2001, the richest North Dakotans received 4.7 percent of the Bush tax cut, while the middle class received 20.2 percent of the tax cut.³³
- But, in 2006, the richest North Dakotans will get 17.8 percent of the Bush tax cut, while the middle class will get 12.6 percent of the tax cut.³⁴
- And, in 2010, the richest North Dakotans will get 30.6 percent of the Bush tax cut, while the middle class will get 14.9 percent of the tax cut.³⁵

Bush capital gains and dividend tax cuts overwhelmingly benefit the wealthiest North Dakotans .

- In 2010, the richest North Dakotans will receive an average of \$4,962 from the Bush capital gains and dividend tax cuts. That means the richest North Dakotans will be getting over 30.2 percent of all of the tax cut benefit.³⁶
- In contrast, in 2010, middle class North Dakotans will receive an average of \$48 from the Bush capital gains and dividend tax cuts. That's just 5.8 percent of the benefit going to the middle class.³⁷

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